



## U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 3, 2009

### PRESS RELEASE

PHILADELPHIA – Acting United States Attorney Laurie Magid today announced the filing of an indictment<sup>1</sup> charging Nelson Castro, a/k/a “Francisco Rodriguez,” a/k/a “Nelson Azala Velazquez,” a/k/a “Cojo,” and Nicole Alicea, a/k/a “Chupi,” with conspiracy to distribute 1 kilogram or more of heroin, 50 grams or more of cocaine base, commonly known as “crack,” and 500 grams or more of cocaine; possession with intent to distribute 1 kilogram or more of heroin, 50 grams or more of cocaine base, commonly known as “crack,” and 500 grams or more of cocaine; and use of a communications facility in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. In addition, the indictment charges both defendants with possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

The indictment charges that, on two occasions in August and September 2008, the defendants sold heroin to an undercover law enforcement officer, and that in December 2008, the defendants were found in possession of approximately 1.26 kilograms of heroin, 236 grams of crack, and 1.7 kilograms of cocaine, along with a loaded 9mm Ruger handgun.

The defendants were arrested on December 9, 2008, and have been detained without bail pending trial.

#### INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
Nelson Castro	Philadelphia, PA	47 years old
Nicole Alicea	Philadelphia, PA	22 years old

If convicted on all counts, the defendants face a maximum possible sentence of lifetime imprisonment, a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years’ imprisonment, a \$4,000,000 fine, a mandatory minimum of 5 years’ supervised release up to a maximum of lifetime supervised release, and a \$600 special assessment.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force, a combined unit consisting of members of the Philadelphia Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Agency. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Lauren M. Ouziel.

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<sup>1</sup> An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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